



*Wyoming*  
DEPARTMENT OF *Agriculture*

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*The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources and quality of life.*

August 25, 2009

John R. Christensen, Field Manager  
Kemmerer Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
312 Highway 189 North  
Kemmerer, WY 83101

Dear Mr. Christensen:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis for the three proposed grazing permit renewals located within the Kemmerer Field Office (KFO). The three grazing permits referred to in this letter are as follows:

- Russell D. Cook (4904240) – Allotment Name: Cook, Allotment Number: 11524 (Reference Number: GF4904240 – 4130(090) - AF11524)
- Charles R. Nixon (4904272) – Allotment Name: Wasatch, Allotment Number: 21517 (Reference Number: GF4904272 – 4130(090) – AF21517)
- Faddis Brothers Ranch Partnership (4904274) – Allotment Name: Sims Canyon, Allotment Number: 11536 (Reference Number: GF4904274 – 4130(090) – AF11536)

Our comments are specific to our mission: dedication to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. As this proposed project affects our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens, it's important you continue to inform us of proposed actions and decisions and continue to provide us the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

The WDA does not foresee any issues with these allotments as is already depicted in the scoping letters. It is our understanding the three allotments are meeting standards and guidelines for healthy range conditions and we would recommend KFO includes this fact in the NEPA analysis.

We would like to commend the KFO in encouraging permittees to participate in vegetative monitoring on their allotments. We strongly encourage you to continue working with permittees and encouraging them to participate in joint cooperative monitoring on these allotments.

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The WDA would also like the NEPA analysis to include the socio and economic importance livestock grazing and ranching has on the local economy, but also to the protection of open space and wildlife habitats (Yarbrough et al. 2006<sup>1</sup>).

We strongly support the continuance of commercial livestock grazing within these allotments. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the NEPA analysis. We encourage continued attention to our concerns, and we look forward to hearing about and being involved in future proposed actions and decisions.

Sincerely,

  
Jason Fearneyhough  
Director

JF/cw

CC: Governor's Planning Office  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Wyoming Board of Agriculture  
Wyoming Stock Growers Association  
Wyoming Wool Growers Association  
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation  
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts  
State Grazing Board  
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

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<sup>1</sup> Yarbrough, A., J. Kapela, and C. O'Brady. 2006. Ranching in the Rockies, Threats and Signs of Hope. The 2006 Colorado College State of the Rockies Report Card. 6 pages. <http://www.coloradocollege.edu/StateoftheRockies/06ReportCard/21-26%20Ranching%20in%20the%20Rockies.pdf>.